



I am  
the vine,  
you are the  
branches

JOHN 15:5



Worship Program  
April 27 & 28, 2024  
5<sup>th</sup> weekend of Easter

## Introduction

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

## Thanksgiving for Baptism

*\*Please stand if you are able*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

P: At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Look, here is water! **C: Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

## Gathering Hymn "We Know That Christ is Raised" Hymn 449



1 We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.  
2 We share by wa - ter in his sav - ing death.  
3 The Fa - ther's splen - dor clothes the Son with life.  
4 A new cre - a - tion comes to life and grows



Em-braced by death, he broke its fear - ful hold,  
Re - born, we share with him an Eas - ter life,  
The Spir - it's fis - sion shakes the church of God.  
as Christ's new bod - y takes on flesh and blood.



and our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.  
as liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.  
Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.  
The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing:



Hal - le - lu - jah!

## Canticle of Praise

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor,  
blessing, and glory are his.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
and join in the hymn of all creation.**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might  
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**For the Lamb who was slain  
has begun his reign.**

**Alleluia.**

**This is the feast of victory for our God.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Prayer of the Day

P: O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**            *\*Please be seated*

## First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

*(Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.)*

WA: An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (*This is a wilderness road.*) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home. Seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?"

And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "Look, here is water!" "What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away. The eunuch saw him no more and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea. The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalmody: Psalm 22:25-31

WA: From you comes my praise in the great assembly. I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**C: The poor shall eat and be satisfied, let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

WA: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD. All the families of nations shall bow before God.

**C: For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

WA: Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship. All who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

**C: Their descendants shall serve the LORD, whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

WA: They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

*(We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.)*

WA: Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God. Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way. God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God.

If we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world.

God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this. That we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.

We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars. For those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this. Those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

**"Alleluia"**(Setting 3, ELW pg.142)

*\*Please stand if you are able*

Gospel: John 15:1-8

*(On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.)*

P: The holy gospel according to John.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: Jesus said: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you.

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

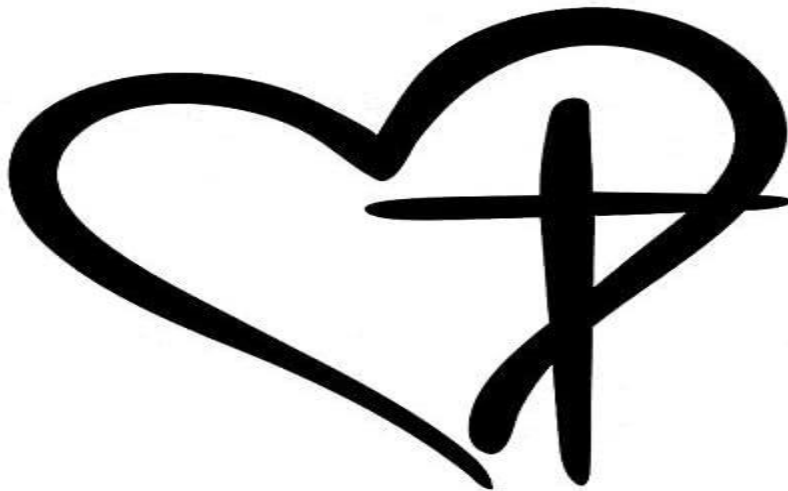
Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*Please be seated.

Sermon *Rev. Ed DeVore*





# Hymn of the Day "With High Delight Let Us Unite" Hymn 368

*\*Please stand if you are able*



1 With high de - light let us u - nite in  
2 True God, he first from death has burst forth  
3 Let prais - es ring; give thanks, and bring to



songs of great ju - bi - la - tion. You pure in heart, all  
in - to life, all sub - du - ing. His en - e - my now  
Christ our Lord ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed by



bear your part, sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To  
van - quished see; his death has been death's un - do - ing. "And  
word and deed to ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So



set us free for - ev - er, he is ris'n and sends to  
yours shall be like vic - to - ry o'er death and grave," says  
shall his love give us a - bove, from mis - er - y and



all earth's ends good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.  
he, who gave his life for us, life re - new - ing.  
death set free, all joy and full con - so - la - tion.

## Nicene Creed

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.**

**Amen.**

## Prayers of Intercession

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

P: We pray for the church around the world, for all ministers, and for the mission of the gospel. Keep all the newly baptized and confirmed in your care. Cleanse our hearts with your word and help us to abide in you always. God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: For the well-being of the earth and of all created things. For rivers and lakes, streams and estuaries, melting glaciers and polluted waters. Renew the face of the earth and shower us with your goodness.

God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: For the nations and all those in authority. For local, state, and national leaders, for elected representatives at every level, and for international organizations, that justice and peace may reign.

God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: For all those in need. For any experiencing homelessness or unemployment, for those fleeing from oppression or seeking asylum, and for all who are ill or suffering (*especially*).

God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: For this congregation. For the caring ministries of this faith community, for all who visit and minister to one another, for all who take communion to homes or care centers, and for all who seek to share your love with the world. God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: With thanksgiving for the saints who rest from their labors. Help us, like them, to bear much fruit and to become your disciples, and at the last, bring us to that heavenly banquet where all will feast together at your table. God of grace, **C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love. Through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

## Offertory Song

**"O God of Every Nation"** ELW 713 vs.1 & 4

## Offering Prayer

*\*Please stand if you are able*

P: Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **C: Amen.**

## The Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**"Holy, Holy, Holy"** (Setting Three, ELW pg.144)

## Thanksgiving at the Table

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**C: Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## Invitation to Communion

P: The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table. *\*Please be seated*

**"Lamb of God"** (Setting Three, ELW pg.146)

## Special Music

**"Thank You Jesus For the Blood"** Performed by Charity Gayle

## Prayer after Communion \*Please stand if you are able

P: Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **C: Amen.**

## Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✠ bless you now and always. **C: Amen.**

## Sending Hymn "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" Hymn 452



- 1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
- 2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
- 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
- 4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
- 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.  
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.  
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.  
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.  
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

## Dismissal

P: Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

**C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

## Readers/Communion Assistants

April 27 Dave Klavuhn

April 28 Ray Leverknight

May 4 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 5 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 11 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 12 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 18 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 19 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 25 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 26 Ray Leverknight

## Ushers

April 27 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

April 28 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 4 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 5 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 11 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 12 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 18 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 19 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 25 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***

May 26 **\*\*HELP WANTED\*\***



WGMC will be holding  
a **Bake Sale** on  
Saturday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
and are looking for  
bakers! Please  
contact Kathy Ling or  
the church office.  
Thank you!

# FILEA MARKET

Our annual flea market will be held on  
**Saturday, May 11** from 8am to 1pm.

*Donations are now being accepted  
during church office hours*